

Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Data Fact Sheet

Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

December 2005

Overview

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts has increased every year. In the past six years, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS reported to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program increased by 25%.

Among those currently living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts, there is considerable variation across gender, race/ethnicity and other demographic characteristics. For example, while over half of males living with HIV/AIDS are white non-Hispanic (52%), the largest proportion of females living with HIV/AIDS is black non-Hispanic (39%). While nearly half (46%) of males living with HIV/AIDS were exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, 31% of females were exposed through injection drug use and 32% were exposed through heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and HIV status). Exposure resulting in HIV infection also varies by race/ethnicity. The majority of white (non-Hispanic) people were reported to have been exposed to HIV infection through male-to-male sex, Hispanic people through injection drug use and black (non-Hispanic) people through presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual).

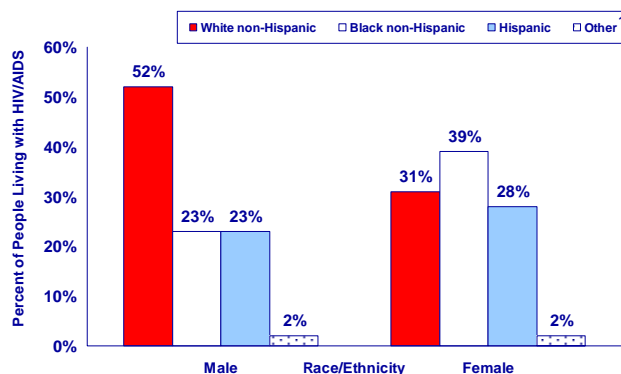
The profile of people living with HIV/AIDS also varies by geography. For example, the Western and Central Health Service Regions (HSR) have larger proportions of females compared to other regions and a higher proportion of people with HIV/AIDS exposed to HIV through injection drug use. The Boston and Metrowest regions have higher proportions of males and males exposed to HIV through male-to-male sex.

The following provides a summary of people living with HIV/AIDS on December 31, 2004 and describes this population in more depth.

Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Seventy-one percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are male and 29% are female.
- Forty-six percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are white (non-Hispanic), 27% are black (non-Hispanic), 25% are Hispanic, 1% is Asian/Pacific Islander, and less than 1% is American Indian/Alaska Native. In contrast, black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic people each make up 6% of the total Massachusetts population.

Figure 1. People Living with HIV/AIDS, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: MA



¹ Other include Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 12/31/04

- Among **males** living with HIV/AIDS, 52% are white (non-Hispanic), 23% are black (non-Hispanic) and 23% are Hispanic.
- Among **females** living with HIV/AIDS, 31% are white (non-Hispanic) 39% are black (non-Hispanic) and 28% are Hispanic.

Place of Birth, Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Eighteen percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, 12% were born in Puerto Rico or another US Dependency and 70% were born in the US.

For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix

Massachusetts Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Bureau 250 Washington St. 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02108
617.624.5300 FAX 617.624.5399 <http://www.mass.gov/dph/aids/hivaids.htm>

- Among people living with HIV/AIDS who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 77% were born outside the US, compared to 38% of black (non-Hispanic) people, 17% of Hispanic people and 5% of white (non-Hispanic) people.
- Twenty-five percent of females living with HIV/AIDS were born outside the US, compared to 15% of males.

Current Age

- On December 31, 2004, 1% of people living with HIV/AIDS were under 13 years old, 2% were 13-24 years old, 3% were 25-29 years old, 8% were 30-34 years old, 17% were 35-39 years old, 24% were 40-44 years old, 21% were 45-49 years old, and 24% were 50 years old or above.

Gender and Exposure Mode

- Male-to-male sex and injection drug use are the leading reported risks for HIV infection among all people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 33% and 28% of all exposures, respectively.
- For **males**, male-to-male sex is the predominant exposure mode (46%), followed by injection drug use (27%).
- For **females**, heterosexual sex (with partners with known risk and HIV status) and injection drug use account for the most frequently reported exposure modes at 32% and 31%, respectively.

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode

- Among **white (non-Hispanic) people** living with HIV/AIDS, male-to-male sex is the most frequently reported exposure mode, accounting for 53% of exposures.
- Injection drug use (24%) and presumed heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) (30%) are the leading risks for HIV infection among **black (non-Hispanic) people** living with HIV/AIDS.

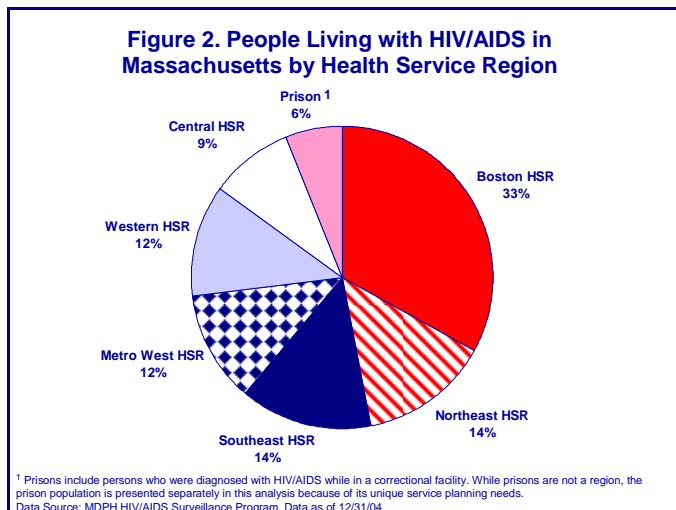
- Among **Hispanic people** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is injection drug use, which accounts for 42% of exposures.
- Among **Asian/Pacific Islanders** living with HIV/AIDS, the predominant risk for HIV infection is male-to-male sex, accounting for 37% of exposures.

Race/Ethnicity and Exposure Mode by Gender

- Among **white (non-Hispanic) males**, male-to-male sex is the primary reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 66% of exposures.
- Among **black (non-Hispanic) males**, exposure mode is more evenly distributed, with injection drug use accounting for 28% of exposures, male-to-male sex 23%, and presumed heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) 22%.
- Among **Hispanic males**, injection drug use is the leading reported risk for HIV infection, accounting for 49% of exposures.
- While the predominant exposure mode among **white (non-Hispanic) females** living with HIV/AIDS is injection drug use (50%), the predominant exposure mode among **black (non-Hispanic) females** is presumed heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) (41%) and among **Hispanic females** is heterosexual sex with partners with known risk and HIV status (43%).

For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix

Distribution by Health Service Region (HSR)



- While 33% of people living with HIV/AIDS were living in the Boston Health Service Region at the time of report, 12% of all Massachusetts residents were living there in 2000, according to the US Census.

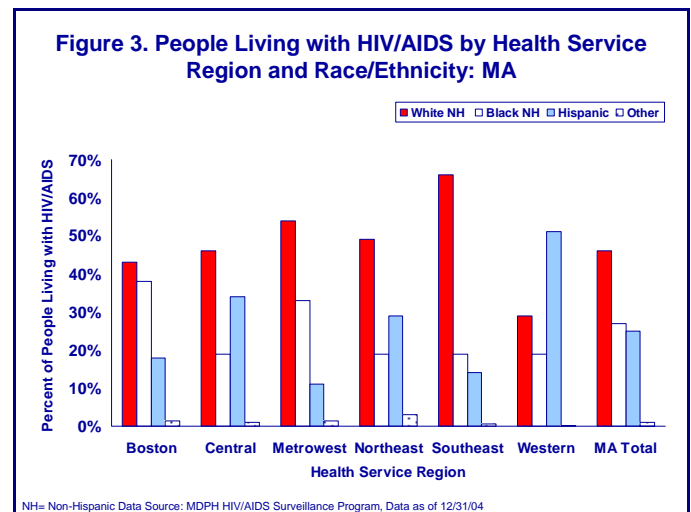
Distribution by Gender and Health Service Region (HSR)

- The Central and Western regions have higher proportions of females among all those living with HIV/AIDS compared with other regions, at 39% and 38%, respectively.
- The Boston region has the highest proportion of males among all those living with HIV/AIDS at 76%.

Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Health Service Region (HSR)

- White (non-Hispanic) individuals** account for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS across race/ethnicity in all regions except the Western HSR, where Hispanic individuals are the largest group.
- The Boston HSR has the highest proportion (38%) of **black (non-Hispanic) individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Metrowest HSR (33%).

- The Western HSR has the highest proportion (51%) of **Hispanic individuals** among those living with HIV/AIDS, followed by the Central HSR (34%).



Distribution by Exposure mode and Health Service Region (HSR)

- Male-to-male sex is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Boston (45%), Metrowest (38%), and Southeast (35%) regions.
- Injection drug use is the exposure mode reported for the largest proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Central (37%) and Western (36%) regions.
- In the Northeast Region, male-to-male sex and injection drug use account for nearly the same proportion (30% and 25%, respectively) of exposures among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Data Source:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, All Data as of 7/1/05